

Michigan Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Summary
of
October 25, 2006
At the
Ralph A. MacMullan (RAM) Conference Center in Roscommon Michigan

Council Members

Jon Allan	Suhmed Bahl
Rich Bowman	Jim Cleland
James Clift	Jon Coleman
Michael Gregg	Kurt Heise
Fred Henningsen	Craig Hoffman
Thomas Newhof	Michael Newman
Bill Pearson	Paul Seelbach
Dr. Alan Steinman	

Guests

Jeremiah Asher MSU	Jim Bredin MDEQ-OGI
Mary Ericson NWF	Molly Flanagan NWF
Patricia Fouchey MDNR	Dave Hamilton MDEQ-LWMD
Ellen Kohler	Howard Reeves USGS
Frank Ruswick MDEQ	Grenetta Thomassey
Troy Zorn MDNR	

Introductions / Meeting Logistics

Paul Seelbach welcomed everyone to the Straits Conference Room at the DNR Ralph A. MacMullan (RAM) Conference Center in Roscommon Michigan. All present introduced themselves.

Web Interface

Jeremiah Asher went thru the process an applicant / system user would go through when using the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool. The applicant / system user may use the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool as many times as they wish. The applicant / system user would open up a map of the state and point to the area where the withdrawal will occur. The applicant / system user would then pick use type: Surface water or ground water. If surface water is chosen, the applicant / system user will be asked to give pumping rate, return flow, x.y locations. If groundwater is chosen, the applicant / system user will be asked to give well type, durations, return flow, pumping rate, x.y location and well depth. The Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool will only store information when the applicant / system user wants a certificate of completion. The certification of completion can be printed showing the information accumulated to take to the administrative agency (DEQ). The Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool feedback at this time will be fairly generic. The Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool is trying to bring to technical / detailed information to the general public in a fairly simple way. This is a screening tool only, specific information might be needed.

Fish Models

Troy Zorn led the discussion on models. Dr. Ed Rutherford is in charge of objective 1. Troy Zorn is in charge of Objective 2. Mike Wiley is in charge of Objective 3. Objective 1 is to produce a model that shows the influence of groundwater withdrawals on selected stream habitat parameters. Objective 2 is looking at state wide patterns based on baseflow reductions and aquatic fauna. Objective 3 is a very specific watershed model that was be million dollar research project. Since it is available, it will be layered into the water withdrawal assessment tool. There is a timeline printed in document. Mr. Zorn feels the timeline is fairly accurate. Objective 1 & 2 should be done by December. Objective 3 will take longer - through May / June.

A question was asked if one of the models will incorporate protected species. Since there is already a trigger mechanism available to protected / endangered species, it will not be necessary.

Subcommittee Update

Legal

James Clift reviewed what was said during the October 10 Legal Subcommittee Meeting. Regarding reasonable use there are three different policy areas that won't radically alter what Michigan Law is today. Currently the subcommittee is reviewing 13 questions. Mr. Clift feels the council will probably only need to look at 3 or 4 of these issues. What is role of Department / Government – will they be a facilitator or an arbitrator. Mr. Clift would like to see voluntary resolutions made by a water board. The Wellhead Program is a good example.

Mitigation

Michael Newman said the Mitigation Subcommittee had its second meeting last week. Both meetings were mostly philosophical. The group agreed in principle that if mitigation was allowed it should be done close to the impacted source

Sustainability

Dr. Alan Steinman said the EPA Star Grant was declined. The back up plan of action will be done.

Assessment Tool

The Peer Review Panel has been established. Dr. William K. Annable, Dr. Joe DePinto, Dr. N. LeRoy Poff., and Hal Beecher are the four members of the Peer Review Panel. The Subcommittee is still working on a time that all of the Peer Review Committee can get together.

The next Assessment Tool Subcommittee meeting will be Thursday November 9 at 9:00 AM.

Website

Sumedh Bahl told the council of the new website where messages can be placed thru the Institute for Water Research MSU.

Guiding Principles

At the November meeting the council would like to discuss and come up with guiding principles.

Comprehensive Project Timeline and Project Management

Jon Allan put up a timeline. When placing in all the work that needs to be accomplished the council has a very short timeline. The council needs to put up a timeline to be sure the objectives are met. Jon Allan put in the Objectives 1, 2 & 3. He needs to add the other committees. It should show scheduling of all committees and what the tasks are of each subcommittees with deliverables over the next 4 – 5 months.

Model Flowchart / Diagrams of Interactions –

Jon Allen put on the screen 4 boxes of 4 different diagrams and discussed each diagram.

Next Meetings: November: November 30, 2006 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Amway Grand in Grand Rapids.

Director Rebecca A. Humphries and possibly members of the Farm Bureau will be in attendance. This meeting will focus in on the Guiding Principles as they apply to the council's new legislative task.

December: A conference call has been set up for Tuesday December 19 at 9:00 AM.

Peer Review Panel – Once dates for the Peer Review Panel have been set the council will be asked to meet to hear the panel's findings. The Assessment Tool Subcommittee is hoping for sometime in December.

January: Thursday January 11, 2007, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the Ann Arbor area.